

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 195291

65

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 DHA-02 /020 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:JMSMITH,JR:JC

APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN

SCA/SCS:EPOWERS

----- 031235

R 061209Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CASC, AR

SUBJECT: THREATENED CLOSURE BY GOA OF WATCHTOWER AND BIBLE
TRACT SOCIETY

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4846 AND 5014

1. AS A RULE, THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO PROTECT
RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS ABROAD PER SE. WE WOULD, OF
COURSE, BE CONCERNED IF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN COMPLAINED
THAT HIS RIGHTS UNDER ARGENTINE LAW WERE BEING VIOLATED.
FROM THE TELEGRAMS UNDER REFERENCE, HOWEVER, IT WOULD
APPEAR THAT THE THREATENED CLOSURE WOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE
WITH DUE PROCESS UNDER ARGENTINE LAW.

2. THE DEPARTMENT FINDS IT SOMEWHAT PUZZLING THAT ACTION
IS BEING TAKEN ONLY NOW TO CARRY OUT A DECREE ISSUED IN
1950. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT THE
EMBASSY MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHED ON THE REASON FOR ACTING
AT THIS TIME. IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO KNOW UNDER
WHAT LEGAL AUTHORITY THE 1950 DECREE WAS ISSUED AND WHETHER
THE WATCHTOWER AND BIBLE TRACT SOCIETY HAS EXHAUSTED ALL
LEGAL REMEDIES AVAILABLE UNDER ARGENTINE LAW. HABIB

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PAGE 02 STATE 195291

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To: BUENOS AIRES
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